

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PEKING 00286 100648Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CU-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 SAJ-01 /084 W

-----100711Z 120367 /22

R 100620Z FEB 77

FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7229

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 0286

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: PINT, CH

SUBJ: CURRENT CHINESE GOSSIP ON TENG, ROXANE WITKE

REFS: A) PEKING 137 B) HONG KONG 1468

1. RETURNING TO THEME REPORTED IN REF A, A CHINESE PUBLICATIONS CLERK ON FEBRUARY 9 MUSED ALOUD TO USLO OFFICER ON POSSIBILITY OF TENG HSIAO-PING RETURNING TO WORK. HE ASKED WHETHER USLO OFFICER BELIEVED TENG WOULD RETURN PRIOR TO CHING MING FESTIVAL; REQUESTED INFORMATION ON ARTICLE "TENG'S COMEBACK?" IN JANUARY 24 NEWSWEEK; AND DISCLOSED THAT A NEW POSTER IN PEKING--HE DID NOT SPECIFY THE LOCATION--ASKED "IF TENG IS STRUCK DOWN, WHAT WILL WE EAT?" (TA-TAO TENG, JENMIN CH'IH-HSIEH SHENME). THE POSTER HE INTERPRETED AS FURTHER EVIDENCE THAT "THE PEOPLE" DESIRE THAT TENG RETURN
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TO MANAGE THE ECONOMY.

2. IN THE SAME VEIN HE ASKED IF USLO OFFICER HAD SEEN THE CONTENTS OF "THE POSTER SEEN BY THE JAPANESE IN CANTON." CLEARLY A REFERENCE TO THE 20-PAGE POSTER APPEALING FOR A NEW ECONOMIC DEAL REPORTED REF B AND IN BUTTERFIELD ARTICLE FOR NEW

YORK TIMES, HIS QUESTION WAS FOLLOWED BY A VERY AFFIRMATIVE "THAT POSTER WELL EXPRESSES THE SENTIMENTS OF THE CHINESE PEOPLE." (USLO WILL POUCH BRITISH EMBASSY TRANSLATION OF POSTER EXCERPTS TO DEPT AND HONG KONG.)

3. COMMENT: SUCH QUESTIONS AND OBSERVATIONS, OFFERED ONLY IN THE ABSENCE OF COWORKERS, SEEM TO BE SPONTANEOUS ATTEMPTS TO ELICIT INFORMATION ON TOPICS CURRENTLY UNDER DISCUSSION INTERNALLY AND PERHAPS TREATED THROUGH SELECTIVE PRINTING IN REFERENCE NEWS (TS'AN-K'AO HSIAO-HSI).

4. WE UNDERSTAND THAT ROXANE WITKE AND HER BOOK "RED QUEEN IN PEKING" REMAIN THE SUBJECT OF INTERNAL BRIEFINGS AND DISCUSSION. THE LATEST TWIST, ACCORDING TO FOREIGN STUDENTS AT PEKING UNIVERSITY, HAS IT THAT ONE OF FOREIGN MINISTER HUANG HUA'S "MERITS" (I.E. ACCOMPLISHMENTS) DURING HIS STINT AS PRC AMBASSADOR TO THE UN WAS PURCHASE OF THE COPYRIGHT FROM PROFESSOR WITKE.

GATES

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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